

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10, 12-16, and 19-42 are pending. Claims 9, 11, 17 and 18 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 10, 13 and 26 are amended. The remaining claims are unchanged.

The Office Action stated that claims 11 and 18-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the features of claim 11 and intervening claim 9. Independent claim 13 has been amended to recite the features of claim 18 and intervening claim 17. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 1 and 13 are now in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 26 has been amended to recite similar features as newly amended claim 13. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 26 is allowable for similar reasons as claim 13.

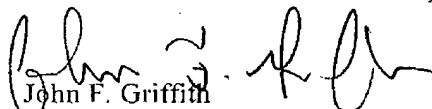
The remaining claims are dependent upon independent claims 1, 13 or 26 and are, therefore, allowable for at least the same reasons as those independent claims.

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicant submits that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a further telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicant's attorney can be reached at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP


John F. Griffith
Reg. No. 44,137

P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, California 94612-0250
(510) 663-1100